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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Masahiro WATANABE et al.

Group Art Unit: 2623

Serial No: 09/714,294

Examiner: Virginia M. Kibler

Confirmation No.: 4921

Filed: November 17, 2000

For: IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS AND METHOD

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Before examination of the above-identified application, please amend the application as follows: